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Report of the Secretary-General on South Sudan (covering the period from 12 August to 25 October 2016)

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to Security Council resolution 2304 (2016), in which the Council extended the mandate of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) until 15 December 2016 and requested that I report on the implementation of the mandate every 90 days. It covers developments between 12 August and 25 October 2016 and contains observations on the implementation of the Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan and related tasks. A separate special report will be shared with the Security Council on the strategic assessment of UNMISS, which will present recommendations on the future engagement of the Mission in South Sudan (S/2016/951).

II. Political and economic developments

Peace process

2. Since the adoption on 12 August of Security Council resolution 2304 (2016), there has been marginal progress towards the implementation of key elements of the peace agreement. The reconstituted Transitional Government of National Unity worked to consolidate the current political arrangement that has Taban Deng Gai as the First Vice-President and head of a Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army in Opposition (SPLM/A in Opposition) faction, in which capacity he has led the engagements of the Transitional Government of National Unity with regional countries and international partners. On 9 September, following a reshuffling of the Cabinet and the Transitional National Legislative Assembly, the First Vice-President appointed 15 new members to the Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission, to replace those representing SPLM in Opposition in the Commission.

3. On 11 August 2016, the Peace and Security Council of the African Union issued a communiqué endorsing the decision of the second extraordinary summit of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development-Plus (IGAD-Plus) group, held in Addis Ababa on 5 August 2016, encouraging Riek Machar to rejoin the peace process and welcoming the gesture of Taban Deng Gai to step down with a view to returning to the status quo ante.

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4. On 15 August, at the inauguration of the Transitional National Legislative Assembly, established under chapter I of the peace agreement, the President, Salva Kiir, stated his commitment to working closely with the new First Vice-President in the implementation of the peace agreement and outlined priority measures, including: initiating an inclusive process to unify political parties; expediting transitional electoral procedures to facilitate elections; planning for security sector reforms to commence in January 2017; and establishing a commission of inquiry to investigate the outbreak of violence in Juba in July 2016.

5. On 4 September, at the conclusion of the visit of a Security Council delegation to South Sudan, the members of the Council and the Transitional Government of National Unity issued a joint communiqué, in which the Government expressed its determination to implement the peace agreement, in particular the reform agenda (see S/2016/776, annex).

6. From 20 to 23 September, the Riek Machar-led faction of SPLM/A in Opposition held a meeting of its political bureau in Khartoum. In the resolution issued at the end of the meeting, the political bureau, inter alia, condemned the appointment of Taban Deng Gai as First Vice-President, expressed its commitment to the resuscitation and full implementation of the peace agreement, called upon the Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission and its transitional institutions to suspend activities until the Transitional Government of National Unity is reinstituted and reconstituted and urged the rapid deployment of the Regional Protection Force, as well as the demilitarization of all the major towns. The resolution also called for the reorganization of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) in Opposition in order to wage an armed resistance against the Government.

7. Concurrently, on 23 September, on the margins of the General Assembly in New York, a ministerial meeting was held to discuss the current challenges and how best to advance the political process in the country, with the participation of the core regional and international partners of the South Sudan peace process. The partners unanimously agreed on the importance of an inclusive political process, involving representatives of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM), SPLM in Opposition (chosen by the Opposition), as well as other armed and unarmed opposition and civil society organizations, consistent with the peace agreement, as the only viable means to end the fighting and return South Sudan to a path of sustainable peace and stability. The participants encouraged the Chair of the Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission and former President of Botswana, Festus Mogae, and the African Union High Representative for South Sudan and former President of Mali, Alpha Oumar Konaré, to urgently enhance their engagement with all parties to agree on concrete modalities for inclusive representation in the institutions and political processes at the heart of the South Sudan peace process, namely, the constitutional review process, the electoral process, justice, reconciliation and national healing processes, as well as security sector reform and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration. The partners called on all signatories of the peace agreement to engage constructively and proactively with the Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission and the African Union, as well as with the United Nations to support the implementation of the peace agreement. On 19 September, the Peace and Security Council of the African Union also issued a communiqué in which it stressed that political dialogue was the only path to the resolution of the conflict in South Sudan (see S/2016/868, annex).

8. On 19 October, at the meeting of the Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission, the Chair and partners reiterated the importance of inclusivity and the need for the representation of all parties in the political process, as essential to the implementation of the peace agreement. However, the issue of political inclusivity is still unresolved at this point and the legitimacy of the institutions of the transition, as currently constituted, remains in question.

Other political developments

9. On 18 October, the Presidency decided to increase the number of states from 28 to 30 and appointed the First Vice-President to chair a committee on state creation and boundary adjustment, to review adjustments to the boundaries of Lol and Eastern Nile, both created under Establishment Order No. 36/2015, of 2 October 2015. The creation of states in contravention of the peace agreement continues to be a source of disagreement.

Economic developments

10. Public revenue streams continued to be hampered, despite a slight increase in global oil prices, due to continued insecurity in the oil-producing regions and the rapid depreciation in the monetary value of the South Sudanese pound. On 30 September, the Council of Ministers approved 22.3 billion South Sudanese pounds in revenue for the national budget, for the 2016-2017 fiscal year. Although the revenue estimates were more than double the budget for the previous fiscal year, in South Sudanese pounds, it is only 10 per cent of that amount in United States dollars. The Minister of Finance announced a series of stabilization measures, including freezing all new public service recruitments, except for the new institutions established under the peace agreement. In its current form, the budget forecasts only 15.4 per cent net revenue after payments to the Sudan, oil company advances and payments to oil-producing states and communities, which is insufficient to cover salaries, estimated to represent 42 per cent of total spending. Inflation, currency depreciation and persistent salary backlogs have continued to greatly undermine government functions and household purchasing power. The annual consumer price index increased by 682.1 per cent from September 2015 to September 2016, according to the National Bureau of Statistics of South Sudan.

III. Security situation

11. The security situation continues to be volatile in Juba and its environs since the outbreak of violence in July, while the overall security situation during the reporting period continued to deteriorate, most significantly in Central Equatoria, where Government forces pursued members of SPLM/A in Opposition. SPLA reportedly fought armed opposition groups in Greater Equatoria and Western Bahr el-Ghazal regions. Many of those events involved significant casualties and the targeting of civilians. Insecurity increased also in northern Unity, Upper Nile and eastern Jonglei, where SPLA and SPLA in Opposition forces clashed often as a result of shifting alliances among local commanders. The increasingly heinous acts of violence perpetrated against civilians in the Equatorias have exacerbated existing tenuous relations between ethnic communities throughout the country. The rise in

ethnic rhetoric and hate speech in October risks increasing incitement and polarization and further compounding the insecurity in the country.

Greater Equatoria region

12. The security situation remained tense, with SPLA forces conducting offensive operations against Opposition elements. In early September, SPLA reportedly launched aerial bombardments near the Yei area, as well as large-scale attacks against Opposition elements near Yei, Lainya and Wonduruba, in Central Equatoria. The Government forces deployed to the area reportedly burned down houses in Lainya. In Lobonok, in Central Equatoria, confrontations involving Dinka Bor cattle keepers backed by SPLA and local youths with Opposition elements resulted in the displacement and destruction of civilian property. According to local residents, SPLA soldiers shot and killed civilians who attempted to flee Yei town and harassed civilians in Kaya town, in Morobo County. UNMISS patrols to the conflict-affected areas in Central Equatoria have been hampered by ongoing fighting and restrictions on movement imposed by Government security forces. During the reporting period, seven patrols were delayed or denied access in Central Equatoria.

13. In Eastern Equatoria, on 27 August, SPLA conducted major military operations on Opposition elements in the Ifwotu Mountains area, which resulted in the reported fatalities of 11 SPLA soldiers and at least one Opposition soldier. On 9 October, following the attack on the convoy of the Lafon County Commissioner, in which 10 people were killed, including six SPLA soldiers, the Governor of Imatong (created by Establishment Order No. 36/2015) allegedly ordered the detention of 14 state officials and community leaders, who were later released.

14. Insecurity along major roadways in Greater Equatoria remained a concern. On 10 September, two oil tankers were burned by unknown armed men, on the Nimule to Juba road, 7 km north of Nimule town in Pageri County. Between 7 and 10 October, ambushes of passenger buses and vehicles along the Juba to Yei and Juba to Nimule roads resulted in a number of fatalities, reportedly targeting members of the Dinka community. On 10 October, one staff member of a non-governmental organization was killed in the compound of the organization, during fighting around Budi, in Eastern Equatoria; 10 aid workers were subsequently evacuated from the area, the following day. On 14 October, an attack against a clearly marked vehicle of a non-governmental organization killed one aid worker.

15. On 19 October in Juba, during a speech to mark the registration of SPLM as an official political party, the President attributed the insecurity occurring in the Greater Equatoria region to political incitement. He threatened to go and conduct military operations himself to quell the violence in the area.

Greater Upper Nile region

16. In Upper Nile, intermittent fighting continued between SPLA and SPLA in Opposition in Nasir in August and September. On 14 October, SPLA and SPLA in Opposition exchanged heavy gunfire, including mortars and rocket-propelled grenades in Warjok and Lelo on the west bank of the Nile. Conflicting reports were received regarding who started the fighting.

17. In Unity, since 9 October, the security situation in Leer town, in Leer County, has deteriorated significantly, with the fighting between Opposition forces and SPLA resulting in several civilians fleeing from nearby villages into surrounding swamps. A substantial number of internally displaced persons from the conflict-affected areas have sought protection and medical treatment at the protection of civilians site of UNMISS, in Bentiu. Fighting between SPLA and the pro-Machar Opposition has been ongoing in several locations throughout Leer County, leading to an unknown number of casualties. The Governor of Southern Liech has acknowledged that the Opposition is now in control of Pilling and Adok. As a consequence, a large number of civilians, mostly women and children, have been seeking refuge in the area adjacent to the temporary operating base of UNMISS in Leer town. As of 23 October there were over 700 internally displaced persons at the base.

18. The resignation of Bapiny Monytuil as SPLA Deputy Chief of General Staff for Moral Orientation, on 7 October, led to mounting tensions in his native county of Mayom, in Unity, most notably within the ranks of SPLA Special Forces, which had been initially created by Mr. Monytuil as the South Sudan Liberation Army, but are currently under the command of Major General Matthew Puljang. These tensions could affect intercommunal and intracommunal relations in Mayom and Rubkona counties, as political and military leaders re-evaluate their affiliations, and could lead to a fragmentation in the Bul Nuer community.

19. In Jonglei, in Pajut, Duk County, on 19 August, Nuer youth, with support from SPLA in Opposition elements, attacked SPLA positions, resulting in the reported deaths of approximately 130 Opposition elements, with the SPLA sustaining 23 casualties. As a result of the fighting, several thousand civilians reportedly fled from Pajut to the swampy areas of Poktap, Padiet, Payuel and Ayueldit in Duk County. Meanwhile, in Pibor, the former Deputy Commander of the Cobra faction of the South Sudan Democratic Movement/Army, Khalid Boutros, announced the defection of his faction to the Opposition, on the basis of the Government failing to implement key provisions of the 2014 peace agreement, which included the full integration of Cobra faction soldiers into SPLA. The Government had already commenced the integration process, with 200 former Cobra Faction soldiers in Pibor being integrated into SPLA. This development has the potential to jeopardize ongoing intercommunal reconciliation initiatives recently launched by Pibor authorities.

Greater Bahr el-Ghazal region

20. The security situation remained tense in Western Bahr el-Ghazal, with reports of armed, uniformed men killing, harassing and intimidating civilians. Clashes south and southwest of Wau town, in Western Bahr el-Ghazal, between SPLA and Opposition-aligned elements led to severe harassment of civilians by security forces. Despite assurances from the Governor of Wau (created by Establishment Order No. 36/2015), UNMISS and humanitarian organizations continued to face access restrictions in Wau County. On 17 September, local authorities informed UNMISS that Opposition elements operating in and around Wau town had attacked SPLA positions in Bazia Payam, approximately 75 km south of the town. According to local authorities, the Opposition and aligned groups had taken over Bazia and Bussere, approximately 16 km south of Wau town. The fighting has caused further

displacement of civilians. On 23 September, further clashes were reported in the areas of Baggari and Bringi, southwest of Wau town, while SPLA in Opposition forces and aligned groups reportedly clashed with SPLA forces in Bussere. Meanwhile, the Director of the National Security Service in Wau accused UNMISS of hosting armed Opposition elements in the protection area adjacent to the Mission's base in Wau. The Director had temporarily withdrawn access for UNMISS patrols to some areas in Wau County owing to ongoing hostilities. Furthermore, the State Security Committee revoked the earlier decision granting freedom of movement to UNMISS, citing the fact that the state government could not guarantee the security of UNMISS patrols.

Transitional security arrangements

21. On 21 and 22 September, the Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission organized a Permanent Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements workshop, as mandated by Security Council resolution 2304 (2016). The workshop focused on possible tasks for the Regional Protection Force, on the review of the transitional security arrangements, on plans for cantonment sites and on the unification of forces and developments towards a strategic defence and security review. However, discussions did not cover the maximum number, type and armaments of the security forces that would remain in Juba under the new security arrangements. The meeting of the Presidency, held on 18 October, agreed to the establishment of the four cantonment sites for SPLA in Opposition forces in the Equatoria region.

IV. Humanitarian situation

22. During the reporting period, the humanitarian crisis in South Sudan continued to deepen and spread owing to armed conflict in several parts of the country, worsening food insecurity and the escalating economic crisis. Tens of thousands of civilians across the country were forced to flee their homes as a result of the fighting, mainly in the Greater Equatoria and Unity regions. As of mid-October, an estimated 100,000 people were confined in Yei due to the presence of checkpoints and armed actors around the town, according to local church leaders. Renewed fighting in parts of Unity also forced people, many of whom travelled long distances on foot, to seek sanctuary in swampy areas.

23. Since the violence in July, more than 323,200 people, mostly women and children, fled to neighbouring countries, including Uganda, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Ethiopia, to escape escalating violence in South Sudan. In August, an average of 1,600 South Sudanese arrived in Uganda daily, a figure that rose in September to 2,800 and remained high at approximately 2,400 in October. Since 3 September, nearly 42,700 South Sudanese asylum seekers and refugees arrived in Ethiopia, citing renewed fighting, forced recruitment and food insecurity as their primary reasons for flight. This movement brought the total number of South Sudanese refugees to more than 1 million, making South Sudan the fourth country in the world, after the Syrian Arab Republic, Afghanistan and Somalia, in terms of the largest number of refugees.

24. Levels of food insecurity remained alarming in the country. In August, staple food prices were at record high levels in Juba, Wau and Aweil, reaching nearly

10 times the five-year average. Spiking food prices were due largely to renewed conflict in and around Juba that disrupted trade, reducing supplies in most markets. That came in the wake of the lean season, which peaked between June and July, when some 4.8 million people, more than one in every three people in South Sudan, were estimated to be severely food insecure. The global acute malnutrition rates were above the 15 per cent emergency threshold in 7 out of 10 states and approximately double the emergency threshold in Unity (26.2 per cent) and Northern Bahr el-Ghazal (33.3 per cent). In three years, severe acute malnutrition among children under five years of age has increased by more than 150 per cent.

25. Ongoing outbreaks of cholera, malaria, measles and kala-azar continued to spread, frequently causing death. As of 9 October, more than 1.74 million cases of malaria had been recorded and continued to be the main cause of morbidity and mortality among children under five years of age across South Sudan. The number of cases of cholera recorded was also higher than in the previous year, and the disease had spread to new locations. There have been more than 2,400 recorded cases of kala-azar, a deadly tropical disease. Since the beginning of the year, more than 1,780 cases of measles, including at least 19 deaths, have been reported countrywide.

26. Humanitarian actors continued to encounter challenges in their efforts to deliver aid to those most in need. Those challenges included increased insecurity, active hostilities, access constraints and bureaucratic impediments. Humanitarian actors reported 89 such occasions in August and 81 in September, significant increases compared to an average of 63 incidents per month during the first half of the year. Active hostilities in Unity in September forced humanitarian organizations to relocate 62 aid workers from Koch and Rubkona counties, affecting the delivery of life-saving assistance to 65,000 people in the area. Three humanitarian workers were killed in August, four in September and three in the first half of October 2016. Two of those deaths occurred while the aid workers were on official duty. The circumstances of their deaths remain under investigation. At the same time, increasing ethnically driven rhetoric and hate speech had a significant impact on humanitarian operations in October, particularly in Northern Bahr el-Ghazal, where more than 90 staff members were relocated for safety reasons, causing humanitarian assistance to the area to scale down. In Western Bahr el-Ghazal, humanitarian partners continued to face impediments in accessing areas outside Wau town, where tens of thousands of people are thought to remain displaced, despite concerted negotiations with local authorities and security forces. On 15 October, the President issued two decrees establishing a nine-member humanitarian high-level oversight committee, headed by the Minister of Cabinet Affairs, to safeguard and guarantee the unhindered and unrestricted delivery of humanitarian assistance.

27. Humanitarian actors continued to scale up their response despite the challenges. By the end of August, more than 3.4 million people had been reached with humanitarian and protection assistance, including more than 2.3 million people who received food assistance, 1.6 million people accessing improved water sources, about 164,400 children (40 per cent girls) who received learning materials, while more than 366,000 children, pregnant women and lactating women were treated for malnutrition. In conflict-affected and vulnerable areas, 619,000 health consultations were carried out.

28. At the same time, funding shortfalls remained a challenge, with the Humanitarian Response Plan for 2016 just 63 per cent funded, leaving a gap of $496 million.

V. Implementation of the reprioritized mandated tasks

A. Protection of civilians

29. In implementing its mandate to protect civilians, UNMISS has continued to follow a three-tiered approach. Under tier 1, protection through dialogue and political engagement, my Special Representative has used her good offices to facilitate the continued support of regional and international partners for the implementation of the peace agreement and to advocate directly with national counterparts to promote freedom of movement.

30. UNMISS delivered 11 conflict management workshops to 658 participants during the reporting period, to address ongoing tensions, build local conflict resolution capacities and explain the mandate of the Mission, including the planned deployment of the Regional Protection Force. State and county officials, traditional leaders, youth, women, local leaders and communities, including those displaced by conflict, participated. The workshops provided forums where local conflict triggers were discussed and traditional conflict resolution mechanisms identified. In Yambio, in Western Equatoria, participants recommended public sensitization on the importance of peace, the intervention of both state and non-state actors and a closer collaboration between UNMISS and civil society organizations as strategies to resolve conflict. In Barmayen, Nyamlel and War-A-War, in Northern Bahr el-Ghazal, UNMISS, in collaboration with the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), sought to improve public understanding of Security Council resolution 2304 (2016) and the mediation role of IGAD. In Lakes, UNMISS held a peace dialogue between the Dinka Ruop section of Mayom payam and the Dinka Kuei section of Matangai payam. In Unity, UNMISS gathered youth from Bentiu and Rubkona, together with displaced people living in the protection of civilians site, to explore opportunities for intercommunal dialogue. As a result, participants committed to embarking on joint peace initiatives, including peace rallies and meetings in Bentiu and Rubkona to address conflict drivers such as hate speech, cattle raiding, rape and tribalism.

31. Under tier 2, protection of civilians under threat of physical violence, UNMISS continued to protect some 206,842 internally displaced people at six UNMISS protection of civilians sites nationwide. The largest, in Bentiu, accommodates 103,494 people, while at the other sites, an estimated 38,874 are located in Juba, in Central Equatoria; 33,052 in Malakal, in Upper Nile; 700 in Melut, in Upper Nile; 2,004 in Bor, in Jonglei; and 28,520 in Wau, in Western Bahr el-Ghazal. The trend of displaced people leaving the sites voluntarily, seen in the first half of 2016, reversed over the past few months owing to the eruption of violence in Wau in June and in Juba in July and the resumed fighting in Unity. During that time, the number of displaced people in those sites has increased by more than 40,000.

32. During the reporting period, 637 security incidents were reported at the protection of civilians sites. There are currently 40 detainees in three holding facilities in the sites in Juba, Bentiu and Malakal. Security and safety within the Bentiu site, in particular, are increasingly at risk owing to the presence of groups involved in the mobilization of support for different SPLA in Opposition factions in and around the sites and the arrival of active fighters at the sites from neighbouring areas. To mitigate risks of violence and communal tensions in the site at Bentiu, UNMISS bolstered security measures and messaging to inhabitants, including their community leaders, on the civilian character of UNMISS premises and on its policy of zero tolerance towards political and military mobilization within and around UNMISS sites.

33. Threats in the immediate vicinity of the camps were mitigated through outreach by the Mission's military component and the establishment of new watchtowers. Internal security was enhanced through a constant United Nations police presence, reinforced by UNMISS military as necessary, and through regular searches for contraband, including weapons. In an effort to increase the safety and security of internally displaced persons seeking refuge at the protection of civilians sites in Juba as well as that of neighbouring communities, UNMISS resolved to create a 200m weapons-free zone around the perimeter of United Nations House. The protracted engagement of, and coordination with, relevant security counterparts, including the South Sudan National Police Service and SPLA, as well as communities was a key component for the implementation of this initiative.

34. Under tier 3, establishment of a protective environment, UNMISS continues to focus on extending protection activities beyond the protection sites, to build confidence and encourage an environment conducive to voluntary returns. Beyond the protection sites, the Mission's military component has increased its outreach into conflict-affected areas, primarily through sector-based patrolling from permanent and temporary operating bases. Early warning indicators were also used to plan patrols to potential flashpoint areas. In Nasir, in Upper Nile, and Leer, in Unity, since fighting occurred in August, UNMISS has been working closely with humanitarian protection partners to identify locations in which civilians are at risk and conducting regular foot patrols in those locations. Night patrols on foot and on mounted vehicles, mostly in the area around the protection sites, enhanced safety through the deterrence of violent activities.

35. The influx of displaced people, the majority of whom are women and girls, caused congestion in and around the camps, which increased the risk of sexual violence. Women and girls have also been attacked by uniformed men while fetching food, water and firewood. A special patrol unit was set up in Wau to counter gender-based violence against women. The patrol unit conducts patrols day and night and responds immediately to any report of violence towards women. In addition, on 23 September, UNMISS launched a dedicated series of quick-impact projects to implement activities with host communities in close proximity to protection of civilians sites, so as to create favourable conditions of return and promote conflict mitigation activities in potential flashpoint areas.

B. Monitoring and investigating human rights

36. During the reporting period, UNMISS continued to conduct monitoring, verification and investigation of human rights violations and abuses, as well as violations of international humanitarian law, including violations that occurred in connection with the fighting in Juba, in July. Although the majority of the violations UNMISS documented were allegedly committed by SPLA soldiers, police officers and members of the National Security Service, the Mission has had limited access to comprehensively document violations committed in areas in which SPLA in Opposition and armed groups are active. Violations documented during the reporting period included killings of civilians, cases of torture, conflict-related sexual violence, including rape and gang-rape, arbitrary arrest and detention, forced displacement of populations, harassment and intimidation, pillaging as well as violations of press freedom.

37. Meanwhile, armed clashes in many parts of the country contributed to a deteriorating human rights situation. Fighting in Lobonok County, in Central Equatoria, in September, between cattle-keepers allegedly reinforced by SPLA and youth, resulted in at least a dozen deaths and the displacement of more than 5,000 civilians, as homes were torched and livestock looted, particularly in Sindiru and Morsak villages. UNMISS was also informed of serious violations, including killings and looting of livestock and property, by SPLA in Leer, in Unity, in August. In August and September, there were reports of civilians being killed, raped and abducted and of the forced recruitment of children in areas including Guit in Unity.

38. In late September, sources informed UNMISS that SPLA deployed more forces to Pajok, Ayaci and Palwar in Eastern Equatoria state. SPLA allegedly looted property, killed animals, occupied schools, raped women and girls and arrested several men, who were taken to unknown locations. SPLA forces were also deployed in Lerwa and Palwar in Pajok Payam, where they occupied Pajok Primary School. At least one witness informed UNMISS that on 2 October, he saw several dead civilians, who had been killed during the confrontation between SPLA and armed groups on 30 September, lying on the road between Pajok and Ayaci.

39. At the start of October, fighting between SPLA and Opposition forces in Yei reportedly led to similar violations and abuses. UNMISS documented civilian casualties following the fighting between SPLA and SPLM/A in Opposition in Upper Nile on 14 October. During the clashes, seven mortar rounds were reportedly fired into Wau Shilluk town, with four of them hitting civilian areas. Among the 33 injured individuals, five were civilians, including a woman and a child.

40. During the reporting period, UNMISS documented serious human rights violations allegedly committed by SPLA soldiers, including the killing of civilians, rape or gang rape and pillaging. UNMISS interviewed six women, who were allegedly gang-raped by SPLA soldiers in Mayendit county in Unity on 9 August. Some of them were forced to live with the perpetrators, while others were handed over to other soldiers for repeated rape. UNMISS also received reports of rape and killings of civilians on 18 August by SPLA soldiers in Bure village, Lainya County, in Central Equatoria. On 27 September, SPLA soldiers in civilian clothes allegedly raped three women in Guit County in Unity. On 30 September, UNMISS also received information that around 1,000 SPLA soldiers and members of an armed

militia arrived in Ding Ding, in Unity, and reportedly burned and destroyed crops and looted properties. Sources also told UNMISS that, on 13 and 14 October, SPLA soldiers had allegedly attacked six villages in Matangai payam, indiscriminately fired at civilians, pillaged their property and burned down at least 40 houses. UNMISS went to Marial-tiit and Meen-Adhiak and confirmed the attack.

41. UNMISS also received information about the attacks, by unknown armed men on 8 October, on civilians travelling on the Yei to Juba road in Central Equatoria. Sources reported that over 20 civilians were killed. The majority of the victims were displaced persons, many of whom were women and children, and the killings were ethnically motivated. Also in Central Equatoria, armed men allegedly attacked three buses carrying civilians on the Juba to Nimule road on 10 October. Civilians were reportedly taken to the bush and robbed and at least one bus was set on fire by the attackers. On 18 October, the bodies of nine civilians were discovered in Mangala County, in Central Equatoria, which bore signs of torture, including machete cuts, as well as gunshot wounds.

42. UNMISS continued to receive reports of the forced recruitment of civilians, among them children. A man informed UNMISS that he had been arrested, along with 25 other youths, in Thokwathnwyotni, Guit County, in Unity, in September by elements belonging to the pro-Taban Deng Gai faction of SPLM/A in Opposition, but he had managed to escape the same day. On 21 September, in another incident, an internally displaced person informed UNMISS that he and three other civilians were abducted near the protection of civilians site in Bentiu and taken to an SPLM/A in Opposition camp, also in Guit County, where they were assessed for military experience. One of the abductees was reportedly taken to Kuergueni for further military training, while the other three were released on 22 September.

43. UNMISS observed further restrictions on the freedom of expression. On 5 September, the editor of Al-Wehda newspaper was detained by the South Sudan National Police Service for an article, published on 29 August, that criticized recruitment practices at the police academy in Rajaf. In Western Equatoria, two radio journalists in Yambio County were forced to leave the country in September fearing arrest by National Security Service officers who reportedly accused them of promoting the agenda of Western governments. On 14 September, the Nation Mirror daily newspaper was closed by the National Security Service, reportedly for publishing a story regarding a report that alleged large-scale corruption in the Government. UNMISS confirmed media censorship prior to publication, including through the deployment of National Security Service personnel at printing facilities in Juba. A journalist who worked for the Arabic Al-Mougif newspaper was found severely beaten in a Juba graveyard, on 10 October.

44. In mid-September, at least three members of civil society informed UNMISS that they had received threats for having attended a meeting with the Security Council delegation that visited Juba in early September. On 20 September, a civil society representative informed UNMISS in Yambio that the National Security Service was monitoring the bank accounts of some organizations on suspicion that they were receiving money to promote Western interests, as well as those of the United Nations.

45. During visits to police stations and prisons across the country, UNMISS recorded hundreds of cases of prolonged and arbitrary detention as well as proxy

detention, often in dire conditions, some of which involved children. UNMISS also documented seven deaths in custody at Torit Prison in Eastern Equatoria, reportedly linked to illnesses caused by poor detention conditions. During the reporting period, UNMISS was denied access to places where violations and abuses reportedly occurred, including in Yei, in September and October. UNMISS was also denied access to Nzara Police Station in Western Equatoria on 1 September. Access to National Security Service detention facilities, where several civilians were reportedly detained, continued to be denied.

46. During the reporting period, a total of 76 incidents, affecting 2,177 children in South Sudan (1,219 boys and 958 girls), were documented through the monitoring and reporting mechanism on grave violations against children in situations of armed conflict. Most of the incidents reported named SPLA and SPLA in Opposition as the perpetrators. The recruitment and use of children by parties to the conflict to reinforce their ranks was the most recurrent violation documented during the reporting period (60 per cent of incidents), followed by incidents of sexual violence (11 per cent) and attacks on schools and their use for military purposes (7 per cent). The other violations affecting children included the abduction of children, the killing of children caught in the cross fire during fighting, maiming, denial of humanitarian access and attacks on hospitals. Due to security constraints and restrictions on access in Bentiu, Malakal and Juba, it was only possible to verify 63 incidents, affecting 852 children (521 boys and 331 girls), of the 76 incidents reported during the period under review.

47. SPLA harassment of civilians in UNMISS protection sites persists and attacks on displaced women and girls continue to occur. Incidents of sexual and gender-based violence, including conflict-related sexual violence, are widespread, with no accountability or enforcement of the victims' rights to remedy and reparation. UNMISS documented incidents of sexual violence, rape, gang rape and attempted rape involving at least 90 victims, at least 21 of whom were children. The majority of incidents were reportedly perpetrated by SPLA soldiers, although "unidentified armed militia" and armed youths were also allegedly responsible for acts of conflict-related sexual violence. Although the capacity of UNMISS to document and verify reports was limited due to the lack of access to areas in which the Opposition is active, in five specific cases, SPLA in Opposition was alleged to be the perpetrator. Approximately 25 women, including at least two children, were allegedly abducted in Juba by SPLA in the month of September 2016.

48. On 15 September 2016, the Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan, established by the Human Rights Council in its resolution 31/20 of 23 March 2016, concluded a week-long visit to South Sudan. The commissioners released a statement in Juba referring to their meetings with Government officials, civil society, community leaders and displaced persons in Juba and Bentiu. In particular, the commissioners expressed grave concern over the continuing escalation of sexual violence, the diminishing space for journalists and civil society members, who are subject to intimidation and harassment, as well as the ongoing impunity and lack of accountability for serious crimes and human rights violations and abuses.

49. Following mounting concerns over the rise in ethnic hate speech over the previous two weeks, on 25 October, in a press statement, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights warned that rising ethnic rhetoric, hate speech and

incitement to violence against certain ethnic groups in South Sudan is highly dangerous and could result in mass atrocities if not reined in by community and political leaders at the highest levels.

C. Creating conditions conducive to the delivery of humanitarian assistance

50. The eruption of fighting in many locations across the country undermined UNMISS efforts to conduct patrols and support the delivery of humanitarian assistance in hard-to-reach locations, especially in the Equatoria region. Planned UNMISS patrols aimed at assessing the condition of displaced local populations, in areas where violence had been reported, were frequently obstructed by local security authorities. In Unity, humanitarian partners withdrew as a result of the fighting in key locations, including areas covered by the "Beyond Bentiu" strategy. However, UNMISS still managed to support responses to pressing humanitarian conditions by coordinating its long-distance patrols with humanitarian and protection partners so as to enhance security during the transfer of assistance materials from humanitarian warehouses and the distribution of lifesaving assistance to vulnerable communities. In close collaboration with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in Juba and local humanitarian partners and representatives in the various sectors, UNMISS military personnel provided force protection for food drops, convoys and many other humanitarian activities, with a total of 2,153 force protection activities undertaken during the reporting period.

51. Additionally, on 27 September, the Force Commander of UNMISS met the Chief of General Staff of SPLA, Paul Malong, and was able to secure his assurance that the restriction on United Nations helicopter flights in Central Equatoria and other places would be lifted with immediate effect, in addition to the lifting of prior restrictions on UNMISS personnel and vehicles.

52. The Mine Action Service was able to focus on its most critical and lifesaving tasks, with its quick response teams providing technical support and information to humanitarian actors in order to enable the delivery of humanitarian assistance. Additionally, an area of 218,465 m^2 was surveyed and released, with 157 explosive hazards and 820 items of small arms ammunition removed and destroyed.

D. Supporting the implementation of the peace agreement

53. My Special Representative used her good offices, in coordination with United Nations entities, to support the functioning of an inclusive Transitional Government of National Unity and Transitional National Legislative Assembly, two organs mandated by the peace agreement that are operational. She also used her good offices to urge the political leadership to recommit to the peace agreement as the only viable vehicle for peace in South Sudan and to stress the primacy of a political solution. Her efforts included promoting political dialogue among all South Sudanese stakeholders towards the implementation of the peace agreement, including the return of all stakeholders to the peace process.

54. My Special Representative also continued her efforts to facilitate the coordination of international support for the peace process by convening the preparatory meetings of the international partners of the Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission to provide a forum for the formulation of common positions and coherent recommendations regarding the implementation of the peace agreement.

55. In support of the Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements Monitoring Mechanism, UNMISS continued to provide force protection and logistical support to facilitate its operations and opened an additional team site in Wau. The new memorandum of understanding between IGAD and UNMISS on support to the Monitoring Mechanism was concluded in August.

56. On 29 September, it was agreed that the Joint Operations Centre of the Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission in Juba would resume operations as soon as possible. The Joint Operations Centre had stopped operating during the crisis in July. In support of the operations of the Centre, UNMISS has co-located four United Nations police officers.

E. Cross-cutting issues

57. In view of the widespread occurrence of gender-based and conflict-related sexual violence, UNMISS is working to enhance the protection of women and girls, including through enhanced patrolling by United Nations troops, particularly in areas where women and girls are most vulnerable. UNMISS urged the Chief of Staff of SPLA to institute preventive measures to ensure the safety of women and girls and to bring perpetrators to account. the Mission is also working with community leaders and protection partners to coordinate peacekeepers' escorts for women and young girls leaving protection of civilians sites. Additionally, on 27 and 28 September, UNMISS participated in a two-day high-level dialogue on the South Sudan National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security, 2015-2020. The dialogue was guided by Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women and peace and security, with the objectives of outlining responses by the Government to address impunity and support victims and survivors, developing a common perspective on challenges and exploring how best to address them and sensitizing key government ministries on the need to integrate comprehensive measures to protect women and girls against sexual and gender-based violence during both conflict and peacetime.

58. UNMISS also worked to enhance public understanding of its mandate and its support for the implementation of the peace agreement. The Mission drafted strategic communications documents outlining public messaging and outreach programming tools, including key messages, press releases, radio segments and press briefings, to clarify and explain the Mission's responsibilities, its limitations and action taken during the crisis in July. Radio Miraya provided daily coverage of thematic issues, including, but not limited to, the peace process, in order to underscore that the July crisis would not derail the implementation of peace. "Women's Power", a dedicated radio programme for women by Radio Miraya, has continued to shed light on women's leadership in the areas of peace and security.

Outreach field offices organized sensitization events for civil society and local community members, including among displaced communities.

59. UNMISS continued HIV and AIDS sensitization and voluntary confidential counselling and testing services, targeting all civilians and uniformed members, Mission-wide. In collaboration with other United Nations specialized agencies, funds and programmes, broad sensitization, through Radio Miraya, aimed at United Nations personnel and the public at large, continued. The weekly live radio programme "Straight Talk" features HIV and AIDS outreach and awareness messaging on sexually transmitted infections, prevention and coping mechanisms. Through that programme, UNMISS raised the awareness of an estimated 308,166 people, including 153,724 women.

VI. Staffing and status of deployment of surge capacity

60. As at 25 October, the strength of UNMISS civilian personnel stood at 2,543, comprising 832 international staff members, 1,317 national staff members and 394 United Nations Volunteers.

61. The Mission's military strength stood at 12,304, consisting of 11,743 military personnel, 367 staff officers and 194 military liaison officers. The total figure is 696 below the authorized strength of 13,000, a gap that will be closed significantly by the upcoming deployment of up to 379 engineers and medical personnel, many of whom will support the establishment of a level II hospital in Bentiu.

62. The Mission's police strength stood at 1,459 of the authorized 2,001 officers, including 576 individual police officers, 55 corrections officers and 828 personnel in formed police units. Of the 576 individual officers, 43 are part of the 100 planned to be deployed for Joint Integrated Police activities. However, all individual officers in Juba are temporarily deployed to the protection of civilians sites, in order to fill a personnel shortfall. Preparations for the deployment of two additional formed police units from Rwanda and Ghana, to Juba and Bentiu, respectively, are under way. It is expected that 160 Rwandese formed police unit personnel will arrive in December 2016. A further 170 Ghanaian personnel are scheduled to be deployed in January 2017. However, the delay in obtaining clearance for new personnel from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has interfered with the deployment schedule. Delayed entry visas resulted in 23 individual police officers being stranded in Entebbe for more than two months. A total of 60 individual officers were scheduled to arrive between July and August, but owing to the non-issuance of entry permits, UNMISS is unable to foresee upcoming rotations of individual police officers. Similarly, since 18 October, United Nations military personnel have been denied entry to Juba and are being deported on arrival at Juba International Airport for not having obtained security clearance from the Ministry of Defence 72 hours prior to their arrival. The rule is now applied to troop-contributing countries, staff officers, military liaison officers and troops proceeding on leave from the mission area.

63. With a view to implementing the provisions set out in the report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly on special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse (A/69/779), a dedicated task force and the Conduct and Discipline Advisory Group of UNMISS continued to enforce the zero-

tolerance policy for exploitation and abuses in the Mission. UNMISS also concluded action to launch a new mandatory e-learning programme on the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse for all UNMISS personnel, including managers and commanders.

VII. Violations of the status-of-forces agreement, international humanitarian law and the security of United Nations personnel

64. UNMISS recorded 46 violations of the status-of-forces agreement during the reporting period, 29 of which were restrictions on movement affecting UNMISS personnel and contractors engaged in tasks exclusively related to the Mission's mandate. Incidents included threats to UNMISS personnel and premises, attempted censorship of Radio Miraya broadcasts, imposition of new immigration conditions for entry into South Sudan for UNMISS staff members, confiscation of United Nations property and interference with air and land operations. Other violations included the arrest, detention and harassment of, assaults on and threats against UNMISS personnel.

65. Three national staff members of UNMISS, two of whom were arrested in December 2013 and one in October 2014, remained in detention without charge, with UNMISS having been denied any access to them. UNMISS was also denied access to three staff members who have been in detention since December 2015. Meanwhile, both SPLA and SPLA in Opposition were responsible for threats against UNMISS personnel and premises during the reporting period. On 5 September, in Nasir, in Upper Nile, there was an exchange of a barrage of mortars and heavy calibre weapons fire between SPLA and SPLA in Opposition, as well as small arms fire. During the exchange of fire, one stray bullet hit the Mission's company operating base water treatment plant. UNMISS continues to notify the Government of such violations through notes verbales and in meetings with relevant officials. A monthly matrix of incidents is also shared with the Government.

VIII. Financial aspects

66. The General Assembly, in its resolution 70/281 of 17 June 2016, appropriated the amount of $1,081,788,400 for the maintenance of the Mission for the period from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017. As at 24 October 2016, unpaid assessed contributions to the Special Account amounted to $168.9 million. Total outstanding assessed contributions for all peacekeeping operations at the same date amounted to $2,159.3 million. Reimbursement of troop and formed police costs has been made for the period up to 31 July 2016, while reimbursement of the costs of contingent-owned equipment has been made for the period up to 30 June 2016, in accordance with the quarterly payment schedule.

IX. Observations

67. The Security Council should be deeply disturbed, as I am, by the sharp deterioration of the situation in South Sudan and the very real prospect of the country descending into chaos. The security situation is worsening day by day. Ethnic tensions and the end of the rainy season in November will further exacerbate the violence. The grim reality is that South Sudan is on the edge of the abyss. The immediate cessation of hostilities and an unconditional return to the full implementation of the ceasefire is the only way to avert a catastrophe.

68. I have repeatedly warned that South Sudan risks sinking further into conflict. I have lamented the promises of independence squandered by those seeking power through violence. I reiterate that the country's political and military leadership have a moral and political responsibility to set their personal differences aside in the interests of the population. There is no military solution to the country's political and military fragmentation. Only an inclusive political process guided by the full implementation of the Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan can reverse these alarming trends.

69. The participants in the ministerial meeting of core regional and international partners of the South Sudanese peace processes, held on the margins of the General Assembly in September (see para. 7 of the present report), were unequivocal in stressing the paramount importance of an inclusive political process, involving representatives of SPLM, SPLM in Opposition (chosen by the opposition) and other stakeholders in bringing South Sudan back to the path of peace. In this regard, there is an urgent need to ensure that the Chair of the Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission, Mr. Mogae, and the African Union High Representative for South Sudan, Mr. Konaré, receive the support necessary to fulfil their respective mandates.

70. I welcome the resumption of efforts to implement the peace agreement, evidenced by the inauguration of the Transitional National Legislative Assembly and the hosting of the Permanent Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements workshop in Juba by the Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission. It is my hope that all stakeholders, within and outside of South Sudan, will be included in a peace process that lays the foundations for lasting stability, growth and development.

71. I welcome the Transitional Government of National Unity's commitment to restoring freedom of movement for UNMISS and humanitarian actors. However, I am alarmed by the number of flagrant access restrictions UNMISS continues to face, including the obstruction of patrols and humanitarian operations and the denial of entry into the country of United Nations personnel. I urge the Transitional Government of National Unity to demonstrate its commitment and good faith by immediately removing those impediments, which prevent UNMISS from fulfilling its core mandated tasks. Further to my previous report (S/2016/552), and given the continued impediments faced by UNMISS in the performance of its mandate, I reiterate my call upon the Security Council to urgently consider the appropriate measures cited in resolution 2304 (2016), including the imposition of an arms embargo.

72. As the overall security situation continues to deteriorate, it is critical that all political and military actors immediately de-escalate hostilities across the country and ensure that their respective forces remain in check.

73. I am alarmed by the rise in the use of ethnic rhetoric and hate speech, which risks stoking violence and fracturing communities. I call on the Transitional Government of National Unity to immediately investigate all acts of incitement to violence against ethnic groups in order to ensure that those responsible are held accountable, regardless of their political affiliation or military rank.

74. I am appalled by the suffering of the South Sudanese people. Before the violence that broke out in July 2016, some 6.1 million people, approximately half of the population, were estimated to be in urgent need of humanitarian assistance. More than 2.3 million people have been forced to flee their homes owing to conflict, including more than 1.6 million people displaced internally. UNMISS continues to host a growing number of displaced people in its protection of civilians sites.

75. Reports of widespread sexual violence, including the rape of women and young girls, perpetrated by organized forces, affiliated militia and other armed groups, sometimes in the vicinity of the protection sites, are particularly alarming. It is an outrage that those charged with ensuring the safety and security of civilians are the very ones raping and killing them. The Government must hold all perpetrators to account for these appalling crimes. Sustainable peace can only be achieved if there is justice.

76. Finally, I wish to express my sincere appreciation and gratitude to UNMISS and the staff of the United Nations country team, who have worked to protect tens of thousands of civilians and facilitated the provision of humanitarian assistance. In particular, I wish to thank my Special Representative, Ellen Margrethe Løj, for her leadership, courage and compassion, as well as the troop- and police-contributing countries that provided essential uniformed personnel and assets to the Mission.

UNMISS
November 2016
SUDAN
SOUTH SUDAN
ETHIOPIA
KENYA
UGANDA
DEM. REP. OF THE CONGO
CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC
National capital
State (wilayah) capital
Town
Major airport
International boundary
UNMISS operational northern limit*
State (wilayah) boundary
Sector boundary
Abyei region**
Main road
Railroad
* Final boundary between the Republic of the Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan has not yet been determined.
** Final status of the Abyei area is not yet determined.
The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.
0 100 200 km
0 100 mi

Map No. 4456 Rev. 24 UNITED NATIONS
November 2016 (Colour)

Department of Field Support
Geospatial Information Section (formerly Cartographic Section)